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The Child Care Connection May 2019



A Message from Our Executive Director

Over the past few months I have had the opportunity to meet with various child care providers. I am continuously inspired by the hard work and dedication you give to support the children and families in your programs. I also hear your frustrations and challenges – including the rising minimum wage, delayed market rate increases and difficulties finding qualified staff.

The stability and strength of the child care industry is of the utmost importance to me and the staff at the Child Care Council of Suffolk – and there is [growing momentum](#) to make child care a priority. Oregon and Washington State have recently enacted legislation to make quality child care affordable to all families, while the New York City Comptroller has released a [sweeping proposal](#) to fund child care for thousands more children under the age of three. Presidential candidates are also talking about child care, with Senator Elizabeth Warren releasing a detailed [plan for universal child care](#).

In New York, Governor Cuomo has established a Task Force on the Availability of Child Care, of which I am a member, and locally we also have the Suffolk County Child Care Commission. Through these entities we are working hard to address some of the urgent

crises, while also working toward a transformation of the child care system to ensure that every child has equitable access to high-quality early care and learning opportunities.

I hope you will continue to [share your experiences with me](#) so we can work toward changes that will positively impact children, their families and your programs. We will be holding more forums with child care providers in the future – so stay tuned!

[Click here to read our annual report](#)

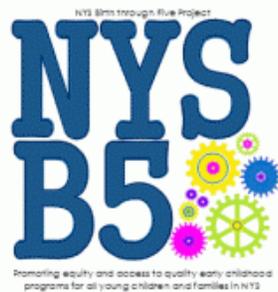
5 Steps to Support Brain Building in Young Children



Did you know that you can help build a child's brain – starting even before babies can talk? Simple [serve and return interactions](#) between adults and young children help make strong connections in developing brains. And, it's easy and fun to do! This how-to video breaks down serve and return into [5 simple steps](#) and features adults and young children doing each step together.

[Click here](#) to to discover the video and additional free resources, thanks to the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University.

NYS Birth through Five Project Needs Assessment Survey



The Council on Children and Families launched a NYS Birth to Five statewide needs assessment to hear directly from early childhood stakeholders across NYS.

To learn more about the NYS Birth to Five project, click [here](#).

[Click here to complete the survey](#)

Upcoming Events



**CHILD CARE COUNCIL
OF SUFFOLK, INC.**

Child Care Council of Suffolk Annual Meeting

June 5th, 2019

Touro Law Center
225 Eastview Drive, Central Islip, NY 11722

8:00 AM — Networking & Light Breakfast

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM — Program

Keynote

Commissioner Roberta Reardon
New York State Department of Labor

Advocate of the Year

Vanessa Baird-Streeter
Assistant Deputy County Executive

[Click here to RSVP](#)

Upcoming Trainings

6/1 - Resucitacion Cardio Pulmonar (RCP)
(CPR)

6/1 - Primeros Auxilios (First Aid)

6/19 - Infant/Child/Adult CPR

6/26 - Pediatric First Aid



[Click here to register](#)

CSEA will sponsor trainings for Family and Group Family child care providers. When registering for a training, contact [Stefanie](#) to see if your program is eligible!

CACFP



Peach, Pineapple and Orange Smoothie

As the seasons begin to change, here is a peach, pineapple and orange smoothie that can be made with 3 easy to find ingredients.

Ingredients

- **2 cups** peach yogurt
- **1 1/2 cups** pineapple juice
- **23.5 oz jar** mandarin oranges in 100% juice

Directions

1. Open mandarin oranges and pour into a freezer-safe pan with juice so oranges are in a single layer, and freeze.
2. Once frozen, remove and add with all ingredients to a blender, mix on high until smooth.
3. Serve immediately as a frosty smoothie or let sit for five minutes before serving.

This can be served as a Snack | Breakfast Crediting: Serves 8 ages 1-5

Resource & Referral



Does your child care program offer
summer and school break options for families?

Call us today at **631-462-0303** and ask to speak with the Resource and Referral Department to update your program's information for the summer season.

